

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Conditions across the state were mostly warm and dry, with precipitation declining significantly from last week. The warm temperatures helped plant and pasture growth in many areas, but more rainfall is still needed in north central Oregon. Little overnight frost was reported. Most showers were spotty and brief. Several Willamette Valley stations reported weekly precipitation ranging from 0.30 to 0.41 inches below normal, while Coastal area stations reported precipitation ranging from 0.39 to 0.75 inches below normal. Temperatures reached the nineties in Eastern Oregon, with Ontario recording a high of 96 degrees and a total of 109 growing degree days.

Field Crops: The wheat crop in north central Oregon is in need of rain. Wheat was heading in the north part of the north central counties. Shallow soils are starting to show signs of drought stress. Cool temperatures have helped but the area needs rain in the next one to three weeks. Alfalfa hay cutting was in full swing and in Wallowa County, warmer weather allowed for more spring crops to be planted. There was some worry that crops would not be planted in that area due to earlier wet conditions. In western Oregon, grain and hay crops were starting to respond to warmer weather. Crimson clover fields were in full bloom and a few red clover seed fields were being cut for silage. First cutting of alfalfa hay was underway in some areas and most alfalfa fields as well as grass hay fields were looking very good. Hop yards were strung and vines were being trained as needed.

Vegetables: In eastern regions of the State, more seasonal weather allowed more planting. Klamath County reported potatoes 40% planted. Willamette Valley growers were busy planting and trying to catch up with schedules. Sweet corn was being planted on higher ground and snap beans were being planted for first harvest. In Jackson and Josephine counties, beans, corn, cucumbers, pepper and tomato starts were being planted; truck gardens were very busy.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses shipping bedding plants to retail outlets. Drier weather has allowed home gardeners to get into the yard. Spring plant sales were about done with most sales now at Saturday markets. Salem area iris growers open houses continue for another one or two weeks. Easter lily growers on the southern Oregon coast were doing tillage work on the new planting beds.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Warmer temperatures helped generate pasture growth across the State. In north central Oregon, dryland ranges and pastures were drying out quickly. In Sherman County, the damage from a fire two years ago can still be seen on the rangeland. The grass is short and already brown, compared to green forage where the fire did not burn. Pasture movement was heavy in Klamath County. Livestock reported to be in good condition across the State.

Fruit: Willamette Valley berries continued in various stages of bloom with strawberries forming. Most tree fruits looked good; early season fruit crops may be down. Peaches in Yamhill County were 1/4 inch in diameter; thinning was done. Fruit tree spraying ongoing in Wasco County. Cranberry growers mowed dikes on the southern coast. Fruit harvest dates are expected to be about 12 days later than last year in Jackson County due to the cool wet spring. Grapes were starting to blossom and showed good growth. In Josephine County, grapes were leafing out with some areas in bloom.

Crop Progress Week Ending 5/25/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley planted (%)	79	75	--	--
All Barley emerged (%)	66	58	83	--
Spring wheat planted (%)	97	94	--	--
Spring wheat emerged (%)	86	80	--	--
Winter wheat headed (%)	24	9	32	24
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.6	6.6	--	--

Soil Moisture Week Ending 5/25/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	0	28	67	5
Subsoil (%)	19	17	62	2

Crop Condition Week Ending 5/25/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat %	--	12	62	25	1
Barley %	--	5	50	29	16
Range & Pasture %	2	8	40	46	4

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Grain and hay crops starting to respond to improvement in weather conditions. Strawberry growers are trying with mixed success to remove some of the weeds that have been growing very well. Vegetable planting progressing rapidly, trying to catch up with schedules. Nurseries are into field planting, repotting and beginning irrigation in can yards. Livestock are in good condition.

COOS\CURRY: Blueberry fruit set was evident; some cranberry growers were mowing dikes; some growers were making final arrangements with beekeepers for pollination services. Easter lily growers in Curry County continued with tillage work on new beds. Average temperatures increased somewhat and breezes continued to dry fields. One cranberry frost event was recorded. Insignificant precipitation occurred on the weekend. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 53.7 to 55.4 deg F; highs ranged from 64.9 to 70.0 deg F; and lows ranged from 36.2 to 43.5 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 0.02" at Brookings-Harbor to 0.10" at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 41 GDD at Bandon to 54 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

JACKSON: Corn planting continues. Tomatoes set out. Irrigation being applied on several crops. Good crop of grass hay being cut. First cutting of alfalfa underway. On tree fruits, Fire Blight showing up and being cut, mostly wherever cankers weren't removed last year. Harvest dates have been predicted to be about 12 days later than last year, due to the cool wet spring. Bartlett's Aug. 20, Anjou Aug. 31, Bosc Sept. 11, and Comice Sept. 8. Field grain crops are now planted. Alfalfa and grass hay looking very good. A few fields being cut for first winter and spring caused some minor reseeding of wet spots. Grapes starting to blossom and showing good growth. Some controls for mildew being applied. Lots of vegetable planting this week. Beans, corn, cucumbers, pepper and tomato starts all getting planted. Greenhouses still getting out flower and vegetable starts. Some getting flowering baskets and pots out for sale. Nurseries still working with sales or potted and balled trees, shrubs and flowering baskets. Some fieldwork weeding in ground plants and shrubs. All livestock looking quite good with all the good pasture. This week was a good week for outside work. The days were warm with no moisture.

JOSEPHINE: Grapes leafed out with some blooms in some areas showing. Pear, cherries, plum and apple set well. Weather this week was extremely warm for four days, although no records broken. Overcast and blustery with very little precipitation, although it was measurable the rest of the week. Some plants, such as nursery stock and new plantings, showing leaf wilt from the extreme heat this week. Sprinkler systems are set up and being used at this time. Truck and home gardeners are busy prepping and planting. One farmer had hay down and had to hurry to get in before rain. Others have held off cutting. Plowing of fields in preparation for planting to hay grasses.

LANE: Tree fruits - plume and prune - crop still down. Peaches - crop down. Cherries - medium to poor. Apples and pears - good to very good. Hazelnuts - look good. Blueberries - medium crop. Raspberries - good crop. Blackberries - good crop. Grapes - still a good crop, may be some winter damage to be seen. Vegetables - land is being tilled and planted the last two weeks. Long term average - back to "normal". Planting slow but ongoing.

MARION: Drier weather is a welcome change. Crimson clover fields are in full bloom; a few red clover seed fields are being cut for silage. Just beginning to see a little rust showing up in fescue and ryegrass fields. Fungicide applications are being made on some of the grass seed fields. Hop yards are strung and vines are being trained as needed. Blackberries and strawberries are blooming. Snap beans are being planted for the first harvest. Cattle are looking good and lambs are filling up the pastures.

MULTNOMAH: Saw some folks chisel plowing. Seems like the subsoil moisture is too high for that kind of work.

WASHINGTON: Crimson clover full bloom. Red clover ready for silage or hay. Alfalfa nearing bloom. Some hay being made. Sweet corn planted, some up on higher ground. Strawberries forming well. Caneberries and blueberries in bloom. Cattle looking good. Fieldwork finally has some good weather.

YAMHILL: Boron sprays in hazelnuts being applied. Peaches are about 1/4 inch in diameter; thinning is being done. Predicted cherry fruit fly emergence is within one week, around the normal time.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: After cool temperatures in the early week, it is now more seasonal. Cool weather has hampered the growth of most crops. Ranges green and look good, but annuals are maturing quickly due to cool conditions. Moisture is much better than last year, but still spotty. Many of our showers were brief and not over 1/4 inch. We need a good all day shower of an inch or so.

HARNEY: We went from winter to summer this week. Warm days and above freezing nights are making the grass grow. New alfalfa seeding going in across the area. Everyone enjoying the sunshine. Hot in the 80's with no frost at night. Thunderstorms toward end of week. Alfalfa being irrigated, and meadows flood irrigated. Grain growing. Some spring planting being done.

KLAMATH: Pasture to pasture movement is heavy. Late rains in California foothills range delayed movement because of excellent forage condition in Sacramento Valley Foothills. Potatoes are 40% planted.

LAKE: Temperatures ranged from lows in the 20's to highs in the mid 70's. The warmer weather should generate growth on the pastures. There was no precipitation this week.

MORROW: Have been awhile without rain and if it continues, grasses will run out of moisture. There is very little deep moisture. Lower elevation pastures are drying out fast.

SHERMAN: Rain needed to complete wheat crop. Wheat heading, mostly in north end at this time. Triticale headed. Soil is dry, as April showers ran out of gas. Shallow soil spots are starting to burn up and some grain showing drought stress. Cool temperatures have helped but still

need million dollar rains in next 1-3 weeks. Impact of fire two years ago still visible on rangeland. Where fire burned, grass is short and already turned brown, while places where the fire did not burn still providing green forage. Very dramatic difference. Most all of the winter wheat is ready to head and or in the boot. Spring wheat is all over the board. Some is late and only 4" tall and some is early and 8" to 10" tall. Some rain would be nice. Already seeing the blue wheat on the ridges and shallow areas.

UMATILLA: Rainfall amounts in May have been below normal. Warm weather in the past week has the wheat showing stress in the shallower soils and south slopes. Higher rainfall areas along the foothills continue to look good.

WALLOWA: Warmer weather throughout the week has allowed more spring crops to be planted. There was some worry that some crops would not be planted due to wet conditions. Range conditions should also improve with the warmer weather.

WASCO: This week saw the first summer weather with temperatures peaking at 95 degrees on Friday. The hot, dry weather has forced the rapid heading of the winter wheat and barley crops. Dryland ranges and pastures are rapidly changing from the pretty green color to brown. Alfalfa hay cutting was in full swing in The Dalles, Dufur and Tygh Valley areas. Spraying continued in many fruit orchards. Cattle and sheep are doing well.

WHEELER: The rain has been very spotty. Some areas have received good rain this spring and are doing well. Others are dry and have not accumulated much moisture all spring on top of the four year drought in the county.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING May 25, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	38	73	57	5	52	29	0.24	-0.39	4	58.59	-2.39	96	162
Crescent City	41	63	55	1	34	6	0.16	-0.45	2	58.45	-3.62	94	116
Florence	36	74	57	4	52	25	0.26	-0.55	2	74.72	3.49	105	142
North Bend	41	64	56	3	46	18	0.15	-0.44	2	64.20	4.38	107	141
Tillamook	32	72	56	5	45	26	0.22	-0.75	3	82.41	1.12	101	155
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	37	88	63	8	90	51	0.02	-0.40	1	33.25	-6.49	84	117
Eugene	36	81	59	3	68	21	0.07	-0.41	1	39.88	-6.11	87	140
Hillsboro	35	86	61	5	78	34	0.00	-0.35	0	35.66	1.40	104	136
McMinnville	40	86	60	4	74	28	0.02	-0.40	1	39.32	-1.31	97	142
Portland	40	86	62	5	88	30	0.03	-0.41	1	33.26	0.52	102	139
Salem	37	85	61	6	78	38	0.12	-0.30	1	38.78	2.64	107	141
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	36	93	64	4	103	31	0.03	-0.22	1	33.05	3.45	112	107
Medford	36	93	65	6	103	37	0.00	-0.21	0	22.49	5.17	130	103
Roseburg	38	89	63	6	92	36	0.11	-0.19	1	31.79	1.19	104	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	31	85	57	5	59	34	0.02	-0.26	1	12.10	0.48	104	98
Heppner	34	87	61	5	81	33	0.16	-0.15	1	11.01	-0.70	94	98
Hermiston	30	89	62	2	86	12	0.07	-0.07	1	7.60	-0.17	98	74
John Day	32	91	61	6	79	44	0.24	-0.11	1	10.37	0.18	102	93
Moro	30	83	59	5	67	33	0.03	-0.17	1	9.68	0.05	101	75
Pendleton	31	86	62	4	88	23	0.11	-0.10	1	11.09	0.77	107	92
The Dalles	34	90	64	9	100	60	0.00	-0.17	0	13.87	2.90	126	84
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	24	84	57	6	61	41	0.07	-0.14	1	6.74	-2.85	70	57
Burns	19	86	57	6	62	40	0.05	-0.18	2	6.92	-0.94	88	76
Klamath Falls	32	84	58	5	57	25	0.00	-0.21	0	10.91	-0.76	93	82
Lakeview	28	87	60	8	75	50	0.00	-0.35	0	3.64	-9.63	27	44
Redmond	25	87	58	6	59	35	0.28	0.11	2	6.12	-0.54	92	68
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	21	91	58	4	64	34	0.00	-0.30	0	6.64	-1.03	87	82
Joseph	28	90	56	8	53	45	0.23	-0.26	2	17.37	-3.36	84	125
La Grande	27	82	58	2	61	22	0.22	-0.13	1	9.46	-4.70	67	90
Union	26	91	59	6	71	43	0.43	0.05	2	13.56	3.25	132	109
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	31	96	65	4	109	29	0.00	-0.19	0	7.38	-0.76	91	70
Rome	26	90	61	5	86	36	0.18	-0.03	2	6.33	0.11	102	66

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN= Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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